

Forces. The Executive order changing the definition of “Field Duty” to ensure parity of pay among

deployed troops is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks on Receiving the Mubarak Medal in Kuwait City, Kuwait October 28, 1994

First, let me thank you, Royal Highness, and the people of Kuwait for this high honor. Mubarak the Great, your grandfather and the modern-day founder of this proud nation, symbolizes the determination to defend your independence against all aggression.

I accept your honor on behalf of all the American people and especially the men and women of our Armed Forces. They are the strength behind our commitment to Kuwait and to peace and security in the entire Gulf region. They are the steel in our determination never again to allow Iraq to threaten its neighbors. They have stood shoulder to shoulder with your men in arms and once again have said no to aggression and yes to peace.

As the men and women of our Armed Forces work to make peace in the Gulf, far-sighted leaders are making peace elsewhere in the Middle East. I am encouraged by the effort of Arabs and Israelis to live together in peace. As Jordan and Israel have demonstrated, a peace for the generations is now before us.

I want to thank Kuwait especially for the important contribution you have made to the peace process. By helping lead the way to end the boycott of Israel, Kuwait is saying, let us close the door on the past and open a new page to the future, a future of peaceful coexistence and prosperous commerce for all the people in this region.

Your Royal Highness, the United States stands with those who seek to ensure the triumph of hope over fear. It was just a few years ago that President Bush sent our troops here to defend your very existence. Since that time our friendship has grown and our military cooperation has increased.

Our determination is clear: Kuwait shall remain free. And the United States and Kuwait will remain partners into the future.

I thank you again.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 7 p.m. in Bayan Palace. In his remarks, he referred to Amir Jabir Sabah of Kuwait.

Remarks on the Economy and an Exchange With Reporters in Kuwait City October 28, 1994

The President. As I think you know, we had good news from the home front today: Economic growth in the third quarter was at 3.4 percent and inflation a very low 1.6 percent. This sustained economic expansion is producing jobs—this year, more high-wage jobs than not, more high-wage jobs this year than in the previous 5 years combined.

This is the result of a remarkable partnership between the private sector and our policies: the efforts of all of our companies and people to be competitive in the global economy, coupled with our determination to lower the deficit, increase investment in critical areas, expand trade,

and aggressively promote United States economic interests all around the world.

I’m very, very encouraged by this. We have growth, better jobs, low inflation. That’s the right path to be on. That’s the path we need to continue.

U.S. Troops in the Persian Gulf

Q. Mr. President, when do you think you’ll make a decision on bringing the troops home by Christmas, and how many?

Mr. President. Well, I will make a decision on that essentially based on the facts as they exist. If our military people tell me that their

Oct. 28 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1994

judgment is that we can handle that, then I expect that decision will flow in a prompt fashion. But we're going to wait a little while longer to make sure we have all the evidence, we know exactly where we are, we know what the range of risks are. And we'll make a decision pretty soon.

Q. Sir, are you feeling a little unplugged from your domestic matters here?

The President. No. No. I haven't been gone long enough to be unplugged.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:44 p.m. at Bayan Palace. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Prince Bandar in Hafal-Batin, Saudi Arabia

October 28, 1994

King Abdul-Aziz Medal

Q. Your Majesty, would you care to tell us what the decoration was, what its purpose was, Prince Bandar?

Prince Bandar. This is the highest medal in the kingdom, that His Majesty awarded the President for his gratitude for the President of the United States of America and the people of the United States.

The President. You all are holding up well?

Q. No, are you?

Q. What are you going to do with all your medals now? Put them in your library?

The President. No, I'm going to wear them to my press conference and hope that I'll get more respect. [Laughter] I'll just wait until a difficult question arises, and I will put it on and hope it serves as a shield.

NOTE: The exchange began at 9:43 p.m. at the Royal Compound Reception Hall. Prince Bandar was Saudi Ambassador to the United States. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Joint Communique of the United States of America and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

October 28, 1994

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahad Bin Abdul-Aziz Al-Saud, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia held a meeting with his excellency President William Clinton, during his Excellency's current visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on Friday the 23d of Jumda Al-Awal, 1415, A.H., corresponding to the 28th of October, 1994.

In this meeting, the two leaders reviewed bilateral relations along with regional and international issues of common interest. In this regard, there was an expression of deep satisfaction at the level of bilateral relations and a mutual readiness to promote and develop their relations in a way that serves the common interests of the two countries and the well-being of the

two peoples as well as contribute to the security and development of the whole region.

In addition, the two leaders discussed recent developments related to the peace process in the Middle East. On this matter, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, with great satisfaction, noted the relentless efforts of President Clinton and his government to move ahead the peace process and emphasized support for all the agreements already reached. On his part, President Clinton expressed his appreciation for King Fahad's support for the Israel-PLO agreements and the Israel-Jordan Peace Treaty and for his promotion and enhancement of the peace process. In particular the President expressed appreciation to him and his counterparts in the